

Verizon Innovative App Challenge, team “Hello Navi” from Resaca Middle School in Los Fresnos, Texas. I commend the team for their hard work and dedication to the competition. These students exemplify the ingenuity and creativity found amongst South Texas students.

The Verizon Innovative App Challenge encourages middle school and high school students to use knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects to develop an original mobile app concept to address a need in their school or community.

Los Fresnos students Cassandra Baquero, Grecia Cano, Caitlyn Gonzalez, Kayleen Gonzalez, Janessa Leija, Jacqueline Garcia Torres, along with their faculty advisor Maggie Bolado, pioneered an app to help the blind navigate any building, including Resaca Middle School.

Their exemplary leadership and creativity encourages other students to improve our world with technological developments. Projects such as this that increase student interest and knowledge in STEM subjects are extremely important to our region and our country given the high demand for STEM college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students for winning the 2013–2014 Verizon Innovative App Challenge and look forward to their future accomplishments.

HONORING GENERAL WILLIAM M.
FRASER III

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to an exceptional Air Force leader, General William M. Fraser III, Commander, United States Transportation Command.

General Fraser is retiring after honorably serving this great nation with an incredibly distinguished 40-year career. General Fraser graduated from the Texas A&M University ROTC program in 1974. As a command pilot with more than 4,300 flying hours, General Fraser has held command and staff positions at the squadron, group, wing, major command, and Department of Defense levels and is considered one of the finest strategic logistics experts in the nation.

USTRANSCOM serves as the key logistics synchronizer for the Department of Defense. It provides global mobility for rapidly projecting national power and influence, anywhere, anytime. Whether sustaining our combat troops in remote parts of Afghanistan, ensuring critical cargo moves through ports in the South Pacific, or re-supplying our forces at the South Pole, General Fraser and his command have shown the world why we truly are an exceptional nation. No other nation can project power globally or sustain its forces in every far corner of the globe as we can, and we have achieved this ability largely through General Fraser's leadership and the efforts of his command.

Equally important, General Fraser cultivated trust with our allies and forged bonds that will

endure for many years. These relationships are reaping diplomatic, economic, and geopolitical benefits that contributing directly to regional security and stability and enabling our military to remain effective and efficient as we downsize and rebalance our forces.

General Fraser will tell you that his accomplishments were due to the hard work from the men and women of USTRANSCOM, but we know they were highly inspired by his leadership. We, in Congress, will miss his “Giddy Up” and “Aggie” persona and his proactive approach to keep us informed and to help us understand the impact of our work. But most of all, we will be forever grateful for General Fraser's unwavering support to our men and women in the Armed Forces, their dependents, and our entire nation.

Mr. President, while we recognize General Fraser for his 40 years of service, I also wish to recognize his wife, Beverly, and wish her the very best for the future, as well as their son Mac who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and their daughter, Ashlee, a military spouse of an Air Force officer. The Air Force will lose not one, but two, exceptional people upon General Fraser's retirement. Will and Bev, we wish you well in your future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of your unprecedented support for our great nation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF PATRICK G. EMMANUEL OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the dedicated service and contributions of Patrick G. Emmanuel on the occasion of his retirement from Emmanuel Sheppard and Condon, one of the oldest law firms in Pensacola, Florida. For 67 years, Mr. Emmanuel proudly served the law profession and Northwest Florida with passion and integrity.

Prior to his career in law, Mr. Emmanuel served our Nation with honor and distinction as an officer in the United States Armed Forces. As a U.S. Army major, he earned the Bronze Star for his service as part of a tank battalion unit during World War II.

Upon graduating from the University of Florida College of Law in 1946, Mr. Emmanuel began his long and decorated legal career. His countless accolades attest to his expertise as an attorney. Mr. Emmanuel has been listed in each prestigious volume of *The Best Lawyers in America* from 1983 until present, was rated by Martindale Hubbell as an A–V attorney, and was the recipient of the Florida Bar Foundation's “2001 Medal of Honor Award.” He also served as a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Bar Association. His vast list of memberships include: The Florida Bar, President, 1985–1986; Florida Bar Foundation, President, 1971–1973; Federal Judicial Nominating Commission of Florida, member and Chairman, 1974–1981; American Bar Association, Delegate, 1986–1989; Society of the Bar of the First Judicial Circuit, President, 1967;

and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Delegate, 1986–1990.

In addition to serving his profession, Mr. Emmanuel also maintained an honorable level of commitment to the Northwest Florida community. For 20 years, he was a pro bono attorney for the Northwest Florida Crippled Children's Home, as well as served on their Board of Directors. Mr. Emmanuel was Chairman of the Advisory Board of Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola for a decade, was appointed by the Governor to the Florida Children's Commission, chaired the Legal Division of the March of Dimes, and was a member of the James Baroco Foundation, Inc. His extensive pro bono work earned him the recognition of the Florida Bar and their President's Pro Bono Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is an honor to recognize the impressive career and achievements of one of Northwest Florida's most accomplished attorneys, Patrick G. Emmanuel. My wife Vicki and I congratulate Mr. Emmanuel, and we wish him and his family all the best for continued success.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my friend Mr. ROTHFUS's commonsense amendment to H.R. 4486. I also want to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his hard work on this legislation on behalf of our nation's veterans.

This amendment would prohibit senior VA officials from collecting bonuses. According to several reports by the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs, there have been a series of tragic—and preventable—deaths at VA facilities across the country. The preventable deaths in the VA healthcare system have been attributed to mismanagement, improper oversight, and failure to schedule timely medical appointments, among other errors.

Yet, despite the fact that more than 20 deaths have been attributed to mismanagement and lack of oversight, tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses were awarded to top level executives at the VA.

This practice has been evident at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, where Inspector General reports highlighted widespread mismanagement, delays in care, and a lack of uniform and acceptable policies. At least three deaths—and possibly a fourth—have been attributed to this lack of oversight, including a suicidal patient who was supposed to be closely monitored by staff in the hospital's mental health ward but died of a drug overdose after staff members lost track of him for